

Eye on Nine: Keeping You Informed

From the Office of District 9 Councilman, Carroll W. Schubert

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

On Wednesday (9-15-04), I, along with Councilman Chip Haass, called for the elimination of the Human Development Funds (HDF). These are the last remaining discretionary funds at City Hall. During the last budget cycle, each Council member was allotted \$120,000. Some Council members have used these Human Development Funds to fund scholarships. Other Council members have chosen to give these funds to various agencies that were rejected for City funding during the budget process. The rejections were not because these are not beneficial agencies, but because they didn't meet the criteria. There are also agencies that go to several Council members to get money from this fund. What Councilman Haass and I don't like about HDF is that one person determines where taxpayer money goes. The typical six Council votes are not required.

Currently, \$30,000 is the proposed amount of the Human Development Fund for each Council District in the 2005 Budget. But earlier this week, the City Manager proposed an amendment that would raise that amount to \$54,000. Then today, (9-15-04) Councilman Joel Williams was trying to gain support to raise it even higher to nearly \$80,000.

Councilman Haass and I are calling on our colleagues to join us in eliminating the Human Development Fund during Thursday's (9-16-04) vote on the 2005 Budget. This way, City Hall would be rid of all remaining slush funds.



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